

# House Armed Services Committee

DEMOCRATS

Ike Skelton, Ranking Member

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## **Skelton Applauds Army Decision to Upgrade and Employ Unused Armored Vehicles**

***WASHINGTON D.C.—Representative Ike Skelton (MO), Ranking Member on the House Armed Services Committee, made the following statement today regarding the Army's decision to upgrade existing but underutilized armored personnel carriers for use in Iraq.***

***On December 13, 2004, Ranking Member Skelton sent a letter to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff urging him to consider employing these vehicles, known as M-113s, to protect American forces in Iraq.***

"I am pleased to see the Army take such a valuable step in safeguarding our troops. The protection provided by these 700 newly up-armored personnel carriers is long overdue to the men and women on the ground in Iraq."

"These additional vehicles will provide much needed protection while we await the delivery of more modern up-armored Humvees. Nearly two years into the war, it has become imperative that we seek alternate solutions to provide the protection our soldiers need, and I applaud the Army for putting the safety of our servicemen and women first."

The letter to General Myers reads in part:

"I understand that the M-113 may not provide the same level of protection as some other armored vehicles currently in use, but they certainly provide better protection than soft-skinned vehicles. Moreover, I believe that the M-113 chassis is robust enough to easily accommodate the additional weight of supplemental armor kits."

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